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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/529,994	03/31/2005	Ralf Boss	ZAHFRI P730US	5332
20210	7590	06/05/2007	EXAMINER	
DAVIS & BUJOLD, P.L.L.C.			PHAN, HAU VAN	
112 PLEASANT STREET			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
CONCORD, NH 03301			3618	
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
06/05/2007		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/529,994	BOSS ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Hau V. Phan	3618

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 April 2007.

2a) This action is **FINAL**.                    2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 9-17 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 9-17 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:

- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
- Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                    4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application  
6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Acknowledgment***

1. The amendment filed on 4/25/2007 has been entered.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. **Claims 9-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hamada et al. (6,024,182).**

Hamada et al. in figure 11, disclose a vehicle having a vehicle body, a left electric prime mover (9L) coupled to a left drive wheel (5L) by a left linking transmission and a right electric prime mover (18) coupled to a right drive wheel (5R) by a right linking transmission. The left linking transmission includes a left drive train (26L) for driving the left drive wheel and the right linking transmission includes a right drive train (26R) for driving the right drive wheel. The right and the left electric prime movers each being located radially outward from the corresponding left and right drive wheels and at least partly in a plane of rotation of the corresponding left and right drive wheels. The right and the left drive trains and the right and the left electric prime movers being rigidly mounted to the vehicle body; each of the left and right drive wheels being connected to

the corresponding left and right drive train by a corresponding output transmission shaft (6L, 6R) accommodating a sprung suspension between the corresponding left or right drive wheel and the vehicle body. Hamada et al. also disclose a shiftable clutch (22) for selectively interconnecting the left and the right drive trains with one another so that each of the left and the right drive trains can be selectively driven by at least one of the right and left prime movers.

Regarding claim 9, Hamada et al. disclose the left linking transmission and the right linking transmission having a common housing.

Regarding claim 10, Hamada et al. disclose the left linking transmission and the right linking transmission each having one separate housing.

Regarding claim 11, Hamada et al. disclose the shiftable clutch, which is situated in only one of the separate transmission housings.

Regarding claim 12, Hamada et al. disclose the shiftable clutch that is situated between a first transmission element of the left linking transmission non-rotatably connected with the prime mover and a second transmission element of the right linking transmission non-rotatably connected with the right prime mover.

Regarding claim 13, Hamada et al. disclose the shiftable clutch that is situated between a first transmission element of the left linking transmission non-rotatably connected with the left drive wheel and a second transmission element of the right linking transmission non-rotatably connected with the right drive wheel.

Regarding claim 14, Hamada et al. disclose the shiftable clutch that is situated

between an intermediate wheel of the left linking transmission and an intermediate wheel of the right linking transmission.

***Response to Arguments***

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 9-17 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

***Conclusion***

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hau V. Phan whose telephone number is 571-272-6696. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30AM-4:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chris Ellis can be reached on 571-272-6914. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Hau V Phan  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3618

